



General Assembly

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A/RES/54/66
11 February 2000

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 86

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*[on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee) (A/54/573)]*

54/66. Effects of atomic radiation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955, by which it established the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and its subsequent resolutions on the subject, including resolution 53/44 of 3 December 1998, in which, *inter alia*, it requested the Scientific Committee to continue its work,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation,¹

Reaffirming the desirability of the Scientific Committee continuing its work,

Concerned about the potentially harmful effects on present and future generations resulting from the levels of radiation to which mankind and the environment are exposed,

Noting the views expressed by Member States at its fifty-fourth session with regard to the work of the Scientific Committee,

Conscious of the continuing need to examine and compile information about atomic and ionizing radiation and to analyse its effects on mankind and the environment,

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 46 (A/54/46).*

1. *Commends* the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for the valuable contribution it has been making in the course of the past forty-four years, since its inception, to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of atomic radiation, and for fulfilling its original mandate with scientific authority and independence of judgement;
2. *Reaffirms* the decision to maintain the present functions and independent role of the Scientific Committee, including the present reporting arrangements;
3. *Requests* the Scientific Committee to continue its work, including its important activities to increase knowledge of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation from all sources;
4. *Endorses* the intentions and plans of the Scientific Committee for its future activities of scientific review and assessment on behalf of the General Assembly, including publication of its next comprehensive report in 2000;
5. *Requests* the Scientific Committee to continue at its next session the review of the important problems in the field of radiation and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;
6. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue providing support for the effective conduct of the work of the Scientific Committee and for the dissemination of its findings to the General Assembly, the scientific community and the public;
7. *Expresses its appreciation* for the assistance rendered to the Scientific Committee by Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and non-governmental organizations, and invites them to increase their cooperation in this field;
8. *Welcomes*, in this context, the readiness of Member States to provide the Scientific Committee with relevant information on the effects of atomic radiation in affected areas, and invites the Scientific Committee to analyse and give due consideration to such information, particularly in the light of its own findings;
9. *Invites* Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations concerned to provide further relevant data about doses, effects and risks from various sources of radiation, which would greatly help in the preparation of future reports of the Scientific Committee to the General Assembly.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*[on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee) (A/54/574)]*

54/67. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/122 of 13 December 1996 and 53/45 of 3 December 1998,

Deeply convinced of the common interest of mankind in promoting the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all States the benefits derived therefrom, and also of the importance of international cooperation in this field, for which the United Nations should continue to provide a focal point,

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law, including the relevant norms of space law and their important role in international cooperation for the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and of the widest possible adherence to international treaties that promote the peaceful uses of outer space,

Concerned about the possibility of an arms race in outer space,

Recognizing that all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, should contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Considering that space debris is an issue of concern to all nations,

Noting the progress achieved in the further development of peaceful space exploration and applications as well as in various national and cooperative space projects, which contributes to international cooperation, and the importance of further international cooperation in this field,

Taking note with satisfaction of the successful conclusion of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), held at Vienna from 19 to 30 July 1999 as a special session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space open to all States Members of the United Nations,¹

Taking into account the recommendations contained in the resolution entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development", adopted by UNISPACE III,²

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its forty-second session,³

1. *Endorses* the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its forty-second session;³

2. *Invites* States that have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space⁴ to give consideration to ratifying those treaties or acceding to them;

3. *Notes* that, at its thirty-eighth session, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in its working groups, continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/45;⁵

4. *Welcomes* the new approach taken by the Committee in composing the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee,⁶ and endorses the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee, at its thirty-ninth session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries:

(a) Consider the following as regular agenda items:

¹ See A/CONF.184/6.

² *Ibid.*, chap. I, resolution 1.

³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20* and corrigendum (A/54/20 and Corr.1).

⁴ Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (resolution 2222 (XXI), annex); Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (resolution 2345 (XXII), annex); Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (resolution 2777 (XXVI), annex); Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (resolution 3235 (XXIX), annex); and Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (resolution 34/68, annex).

⁵ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20* and corrigendum (A/54/20 and Corr.1), chap. II.C.

⁶ *Ibid.*, annex I, sect. B.

- (i) General exchange of views;
 - (ii) Status of the international treaties governing the uses of outer space;
 - (iii) Information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law;
 - (iv) Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union;
- (b) Continue its consideration of review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space,⁷ as a single issue and item for discussion;
- (c) Consider the following in accordance with the work plans adopted by the Committee:⁸
- (i) Review of the status of the five international legal instruments governing outer space;
 - (ii) Review of the concept of the "launching State";
5. Notes that the Legal Subcommittee, at its thirty-ninth session, will submit its proposals to the Committee for new items to be considered by the Subcommittee at its fortieth session, in 2001;
6. Notes also that, in the context of paragraph 4 (a) (iv) above, the Legal Subcommittee will reconvene its Working Group to consider the item;
7. Endorses the recommendation of the Committee⁹ that the Legal Subcommittee, at its thirty-ninth session, suspend consideration in its Working Group of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space pending the results of the work in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, without prejudice to the possibility of reconvening its Working Group on that item if, in the opinion of the Legal Subcommittee, sufficient progress has been made in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session, to warrant the reconvening of the Working Group;
8. Also endorses the recommendations and agreements concerning the organization of work in the Legal Subcommittee;¹⁰

⁷ See resolution 47/68.

⁸ See A/AC.105/674, annex II.B, for the work plan for item (i) and *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20* and corrigendum (A/54/20 and Corr.1), chap. II.C., para. 114, for the work plan for item (ii).

⁹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20* and corrigendum (A/54/20 and Corr.1), para. 90.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, paras. 109-117.

9. *Takes note* of the agreement reached by the Committee at its fortieth session on the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the second term starting in 2000, in the context of the implementation of the measures relating to the working methods of those bodies,¹¹ which were endorsed by the General Assembly in paragraph 11 of its resolution 52/56 of 10 December 1997, and notes that consultations among delegations and regional groups will be held concerning the members of the bureaux for the second term with a view to reaching consensus on the matter by the thirty-seventh session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee;

10. *Agrees* that the Committee should elect its officers at the beginning of its forty-third session, in accordance with consensus agreement to be reached among the members of the Committee on the members of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the second term, as an exceptional arrangement for that session of the Committee;

11. *Notes* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its thirty-sixth session, continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/45;¹²

12. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-sixth session continued to consider on a priority basis the agenda item on space debris and that the Subcommittee concluded its work according to the multi-year work plan adopted by the Subcommittee at its thirty-second session;¹³

13. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the technical report on space debris¹⁴ submitted by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to the Committee, and agrees that the technical report should be widely distributed;

14. *Agrees* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should assess the effectiveness of existing space debris mitigation practices and the extent to which they are being implemented and that efforts to model and characterize the debris environment should continue;

15. *Welcomes* the new approach taken by the Committee in composing the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee,¹⁵ and endorses the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee, at its thirty-seventh session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries:

(a) Consider the following items:

(i) General exchange of views and introduction to reports submitted on national activities;

¹¹ *Ibid.*, *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/52/20), annex I.

¹² *Ibid.*, *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20* and corrigendum (A/54/20 and Corr.1), chap. II.B.

¹³ A/AC.105/605, para. 83.

¹⁴ A/AC.105/720.

¹⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20* and corrigendum (A/54/20 and Corr.1), annex I, sect. A.

- (ii) The United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system following the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III);
 - (iii) Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment;
- (b) Consider the item on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-fifth session;¹⁶
- (c) Consider the following single issues and items for discussion:
- (i) International cooperation in human spaceflight;
 - (ii) Presentations on new launch systems and ventures;
 - (iii) Space debris, on a priority basis;
 - (iv) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and of its utilization and applications, including, *inter alia*, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries;

16. *Notes* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its thirty-seventh session, will submit its proposal to the Committee for a draft provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Subcommittee, in 2001;

17. *Also notes* that the theme fixed for special attention at the thirty-seventh session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee will be "Space commercialization: an era of new opportunities" and that the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation, in liaison with Member States, will be invited to arrange a symposium on that theme, with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of that session of the Subcommittee;

18. *Agrees* that, in the context of paragraphs 15 (a) (ii) and 16 above, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session should reconvene the Working Group of the Whole to consider the future work of the Subcommittee in the light of the recommendations of UNISPACE III;

19. *Also agrees* that, in the context of paragraph 15 (b) above, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session should reconvene its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space;

20. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee¹⁵ that, in the context of paragraph 15 (c) (iii) above, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session review international application of the standards of the International Telecommunication Union and recommendations of the

¹⁶ See A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, annex III, appendix.

Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee concerning the disposal of satellites in geosynchronous orbit at the end of their useful life;

21. *Also endorses* the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 2000, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications;¹⁷

22. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in accordance with paragraph 30 of General Assembly resolution 50/27 of 6 December 1995, the African regional centres for space science and technology education, in the French language and in the English language, were inaugurated in Morocco and Nigeria, respectively, that the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific continued its education programme in 1999 and that significant progress has been achieved in furthering the goals of the Network of Space Science and Technology Education and Research Institutions for Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and establishing regional centres for space science and technology education in the other regions;

23. *Recommends* that Member States concerned in Asia and the Pacific hold further consultations, with the assistance of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat, with a view to making the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific grow into a network of nodes;

24. *Also recommends* that more attention be paid to all aspects related to the protection and the preservation of the outer space environment, especially those potentially affecting the Earth's environment;

25. *Considers* that it is essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of collisions of space objects, including those with nuclear power sources, with space debris, and other aspects of space debris, calls for the continuation of national research on this question, for the development of improved technology for the monitoring of space debris and for the compilation and dissemination of data on space debris, also considers that, to the extent possible, information thereon should be provided to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and agrees that international cooperation is needed to expand appropriate and affordable strategies to minimize the impact of space debris on future space missions;

26. *Urges* all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes;

27. *Emphasizes* the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications and to contribute to an orderly growth of space activities favourable to sustained economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, in particular in the developing countries, and mitigation of the consequences of natural disasters;

28. *Takes note* of the interest of some developing countries, as well as other countries, in becoming members of the Committee, and requests the continued examination of the subject of increasing the number of members of the Committee;

¹⁷ See A/AC.105/715, sect. II.

29. *Requests* the Committee to resume its consideration, at its forty-third session, as a matter of priority, of ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

30. *Also requests* the Committee to resume its consideration, at its forty-third session, of the item entitled "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status";

31. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other international organizations to continue and, where appropriate, enhance their cooperation with the Committee and to provide it with progress reports on their work relating to the peaceful uses of outer space;

32. *Requests* the Committee to continue its work, in accordance with the present resolution, to consider, as appropriate, new projects in outer space activities and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, including its views on which subjects should be studied in the future.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*[on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee) (A/54/574)]*

54/68. Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/123 of 13 December 1996, 52/56 of 10 December 1997 and 53/45 of 3 December 1998 concerning the preparations for and convening of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), held at Vienna from 19 to 30 July 1999,

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space,

Expressing its satisfaction with the successful preparation of UNISPACE III through the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as the Preparatory Committee, and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, as the Advisory Committee, as well as the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat as the executive secretariat, and commending their efforts to organize UNISPACE III within existing resources,

Recognizing the contributions of the Technical Forum and the Space Generation Forum to UNISPACE III,

Having considered the report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space¹ and the recommendations contained in the resolution entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development",²

Stressing the importance of promoting effective means of using space technology to assist in the solution of problems of regional or global significance and of strengthening the capabilities of Member States, in particular developing countries, to use the applications of space research for economic, social and cultural development,

Conscious of the need to expedite the use of space applications by Member States to promote sustainable development and to increase the awareness of the general public with regard to the benefits of space technology,

Desiring to enhance the opportunities for education, training and technical assistance in space science and technology and their applications aimed at the development of indigenous capabilities in all States,

Expressing its profound gratitude to the Government and people of Austria for the hospitality extended to the participants of UNISPACE III and for the facilities placed at their disposal,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;¹

2. *Endorses* the resolution entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development";²

3. *Urges* Governments, organs, organizations and programmes within the United Nations system as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and industries conducting space-related activities to take the necessary action for the effective implementation of the Vienna Declaration;

4. *Calls upon* all concerned to implement the recommendations made by UNISPACE III as reflected in its report;¹

5. *Requests* all relevant organizations of the United Nations system to review and, where necessary, adjust their programmes and activities in line with the recommendations of UNISPACE III and to take appropriate measures to ensure their full and effective implementation, taking into account the needs of developing countries, in particular by further enhancing the coordination of their space-related activities through the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities;

6. *Invites* all relevant governing bodies of the organizations within the United Nations system responsible for space-related activities to establish an ad hoc intergovernmental advisory group to review inter-agency coordination of space-related activities with a view to increasing the effectiveness of the work of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities;

¹ A/CONF.184/6.

² Ibid., chap. I, resolution 1.

7. *Declares* 4 to 10 October World Space Week to celebrate each year at the international level the contributions of space science and technology to the betterment of the human condition, bearing in mind that 4 October 1957 was the date of the launch into outer space of the first human-made Earth satellite, Sputnik 1, thus opening the way for space exploration, and that 10 October 1967 was the date of the entry into force of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies;³

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to modify the terms of reference of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 37/90 of 10 December 1982 on the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to include implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to invite all States to contribute voluntarily to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and, in his letter of invitation, to identify priority project proposals, on the basis of recommendations of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and requests the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat to provide the Committee with a report listing those States which have responded to the invitation;

10. *Agrees* that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its secretariat should identify new and innovative funding sources for implementing the recommendations of UNISPACE III in order to supplement the resources to be provided through the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to recommend measures to ensure that the Office for Outer Space Affairs is provided with adequate resources to implement the following actions based on the recommendations of UNISPACE III:

(a) Providing the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with necessary analytical documents, both on the substance and on the organization of work, to facilitate their consideration of new items called for in the agenda structures adopted by the Committee at its forty-second session;⁴

(b) Organizing, in order to strengthen the partnership of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee with industry, a one-day symposium during the thirty-seventh session of the Subcommittee to provide Member States with updated information on commercially available products, services and ongoing activities of the space-related industry;

(c) Identifying and promoting the use of appropriate space technologies to meet the needs of programmes and organizations within the United Nations system in carrying out activities that have not yet benefited from the use of space technology to enhance their effectiveness and efficiency;

³ Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20 and corrigendum (A/54/20 and Corr.1), annex I.*

(d) Strengthening the activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications to include the following:

- (i) Facilitating and supporting the development and implementation of space-related projects that address the operational needs of Member States;
- (ii) Providing support to the regional centres for space science and technology education affiliated with the United Nations, including the Network of Space Science and Technology Education and Research Institutions for Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe;
- (iii) Reorienting the long-term fellowship programme;
- (iv) Organizing workshops and conferences on advanced space applications and new system developments for programme managers and leaders of space technology development and applications activities;
- (v) Organizing medium-term courses on remote-sensing education for university educators and on telecommunications and tele-health for professionals;
- (vi) Providing technical advisory services to Member States, on request, on different aspects of space science and technology and related applications;
- (vii) Promoting cooperation in space applications projects between government establishments, universities and research institutions and private industry;
- (viii) Organizing an annual public forum to inform the general public of past, ongoing and planned space activities and the future direction of such activities;
- (ix) Promoting activities for youth, so as to encourage interest among students and young scientists and engineers;
- (x) Promoting cooperation in the development of educational programmes in space science and technology for primary and secondary school curricula;
- (xi) Establishing a programme of visits by astronauts, cosmonauts and other space scientists and engineers to increase knowledge about space-related activities, in particular among young people;
- (xii) Promoting the participation of scientists from developing countries in space science and planetary exploration;
- (xiii) Initiating programmes to promote the use of satellite communications and Earth observation data for disaster management and to provide opportunities for professionals to put into practice the knowledge that they have acquired through training courses;

12. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to ensure the availability of the report of UNISPACE III,¹ including its proceedings, and to disseminate as widely as possible the results of UNISPACE III, in particular the Vienna Declaration and the summary of the background and recommendations of UNISPACE III;

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13. *Notes* that, in response to a request made by the Preparatory Committee for UNISPACE III at its 1999 session, the executive secretariat has prepared for submission to the General Assembly a document on organizational matters relating to UNISPACE III, with the aim of providing other entities in the United Nations system with guidelines on using existing resources to organize a conference on global issues;

14. *Agrees* that the document prepared by the executive secretariat on organizational matters relating to UNISPACE III should be issued as a report to the General Assembly during its fifty-fourth session;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III;

16. *Decides* to review and appraise, at its fifty-ninth session, the implementation of the outcome of UNISPACE III and to consider further actions and initiatives, and, in this context, requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to submit for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session recommendations on the format, scope and organizational aspects of the review.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*[on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee) (A/54/575)]*

54/69. Assistance to Palestine refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/46 of 3 December 1998 and all its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948,

Taking note of the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999,¹

Welcoming the signature in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993 by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the people of Palestine, of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements² and the subsequent implementation agreements, and also the signature of the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in Washington, D.C., on 28 September 1995,³

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 13* and addendum (A/54/13 and Add.1).

² A/48/486-S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.

³ A/51/889-S/1997/357, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-second Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1997*, document S/1997/357.

Welcoming also the signing of the Sharm el-Sheikh Memorandum on 4 September 1999,

Encouraging the Multilateral Working Group on Refugees of the Middle East peace process to continue its important work,

1. *Notes with regret* that repatriation or compensation of the refugees, as provided for in paragraph 11 of its resolution 194 (III), has not yet been effected and that, therefore, the situation of the refugees continues to be a matter of concern;

2. *Also notes with regret* that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine has been unable to find a means of achieving progress in the implementation of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III), and requests the Commission to exert continued efforts towards the implementation of that paragraph and to report to the Assembly as appropriate, but no later than 1 September 2000;

3. *Expresses its thanks* to the Commissioner-General and to all the staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, recognizing that the Agency is doing all it can within the limits of available resources, and also expresses its thanks to the specialized agencies and to private organizations for their valuable work in assisting refugees;

4. *Notes* the significant success of the Peace Implementation Programme of the Agency since the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements,² and stresses the importance that contributions to this Programme not be at the expense of the General Fund;

5. *Welcomes* the increased cooperation between the Agency and international and regional organizations, States and relevant agencies and non-governmental organizations, which is essential to enhancing the contributions of the Agency towards improved conditions for the refugees and thereby the social stability of the occupied territory;

6. *Urges* all Member States to extend and expedite aid and assistance with a view to the economic and social development of the Palestinian people and the occupied territory;

7. *Reiterates its deep concern* regarding the persisting critical financial situation of the Agency, as outlined in the report of the Commissioner-General;¹

8. *Commends* the efforts of the Commissioner-General to move towards budgetary transparency and internal efficiency, and welcomes in this respect the new, unified budget structure for the biennium 2000-2001, which can contribute significantly to improved budgetary transparency of the Agency;

9. *Welcomes* the consultative process between the Agency, host Governments, the Palestinian Authority and donors on management reforms;

10. *Notes with profound concern* that the continuing shortfall in the finances of the Agency has a significant negative influence on the living conditions of the Palestine refugees most in need and that it therefore has possible consequences for the peace process;

11. *Calls upon* all donors, as a matter of urgency, to make the most generous efforts possible to meet the anticipated needs of the Agency, including the remaining costs of moving the headquarters to Gaza,

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encourages contributing Governments to contribute regularly and to consider increasing their contributions, and urges non-contributing Governments to contribute.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*[on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee) (A/54/575)]*

**54/70. Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and
Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2656 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, 2728 (XXV) of 15 December 1970, 2791 (XXVI) of 6 December 1971, 53/47 of 3 December 1998 and the previous resolutions on this question,

Recalling also its decision 36/462 of 16 March 1982, by which it took note of the special report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,¹

Having considered the report of the Working Group,²

Taking into account the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999,³

¹ A/36/866 and Corr.1; see also A/37/591.

² A/54/477.

³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 13 and addendum (A/54/13 and Add.1).*

Deeply concerned about the continuing critical financial situation of the Agency, which has affected and affects the continuation of the provision of necessary Agency services to Palestine refugees, including the emergency-related programmes,

Emphasizing the continuing need for extraordinary efforts in order to maintain, at least at the current minimum level, the activities of the Agency, as well as to enable the Agency to carry out essential construction,

1. *Commends* the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for its efforts to assist in ensuring the financial security of the Agency;

2. *Takes note with approval* of the report of the Working Group;²

3. *Requests* the Working Group to continue its efforts, in cooperation with the Secretary-General and the Commissioner-General, to find a solution to the financial situation of the Agency;

4. *Welcomes* the new, unified budget structure for the biennium 2000-2001, which can contribute significantly to improved budgetary transparency of the Agency;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the necessary services and assistance to the Working Group for the conduct of its work.

*71st plenary meeting
6 December 1999*



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A/RES/54/71
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Fifty-fourth session
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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*[on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee) (A/54/575)]*

54/71. Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967 and 2341 B (XXII) of 19 December 1967 and all subsequent related resolutions,

Recalling also Security Council resolutions 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967 and 259 (1968) of 27 September 1968,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of its resolution 53/48 of 3 December 1998,¹

Taking note also of the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999,²

Concerned about the continuing human suffering resulting from the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities,

¹ A/54/377.

² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 13 and addendum (A/54/13 and Add.1).*

Taking note of the relevant provisions of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, signed in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993 by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization,³ with regard to the modalities for the admission of persons displaced in 1967, and concerned that the process agreed upon has not yet been effected,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of all persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities to return to their homes or former places of residence in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967;
2. *Expresses the hope* for an accelerated return of displaced persons through the mechanism agreed upon by the parties in article XII of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements;³
3. *Endorses*, in the meanwhile, the efforts of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to continue to provide humanitarian assistance, as far as practicable, on an emergency basis, and as a temporary measure, to persons in the area who are currently displaced and in serious need of continued assistance as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities;
4. *Strongly appeals* to all Governments and to organizations and individuals to contribute generously to the Agency and to the other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned for the above-mentioned purposes;
5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, after consulting with the Commissioner-General, to report to the General Assembly before its fifty-fifth session on the progress made with regard to the implementation of the present resolution.

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³ A/48/486-S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.



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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*[on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee) (A/54/575)]*

54/72. Offers by Member States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for Palestine refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 212 (III) of 19 November 1948 on assistance to Palestine refugees,

Recalling also its resolutions 35/13 B of 3 November 1980, 36/146 H of 16 December 1981, 37/120 D of 16 December 1982, 38/83 D of 15 December 1983, 39/99 D of 14 December 1984, 40/165 D of 16 December 1985, 41/69 D of 3 December 1986, 42/69 D of 2 December 1987, 43/57 D of 6 December 1988, 44/47 D of 8 December 1989, 45/73 D of 11 December 1990, 46/46 D of 9 December 1991, 47/69 D of 14 December 1992, 48/40 D of 10 December 1993, 49/35 D of 9 December 1994, 50/28 D of 6 December 1995, 51/127 of 13 December 1996, 52/60 of 10 December 1997 and 53/49 of 3 December 1998,

Cognizant of the fact that the Palestine refugees have, for the last five decades, lost their homes, lands and means of livelihood,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,¹

¹ A/54/376.

Having also considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999,²

1. *Urges* all States to respond to the appeal in its resolution 32/90 F of 13 December 1977 and reiterated in subsequent relevant resolutions in a manner commensurate with the needs of Palestine refugees for higher education, including vocational training;
2. *Strongly appeals* to all States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to augment the special allocations for grants and scholarships to Palestine refugees, in addition to their contributions to the regular budget of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;
3. *Expresses its appreciation* to all Governments, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations that responded favourably to its resolutions on this question;
4. *Invites* the relevant specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue, within their respective spheres of competence, to extend assistance for higher education to Palestine refugee students;
5. *Appeals* to all States, specialized agencies and the United Nations University to contribute generously to the Palestinian universities in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including, in due course, the proposed University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds" for Palestine refugees;
6. *Appeals* to all States, specialized agencies and other international bodies to contribute towards the establishment of vocational training centres for Palestine refugees;
7. *Requests* the Agency to act as the recipient and trustee for the special allocations for grants and scholarships and to award them to qualified Palestine refugee candidates;
8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 13 and addendum (A/54/13 and Add.1).*



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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*[on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee) (A/54/575)]*

**54/73. Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine
Refugees in the Near East**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, 212 (III) of 19 November 1948, 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949 and all subsequent related resolutions,

Recalling also the relevant Security Council resolutions,

Having considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999,¹

Taking note of the letter dated 30 September 1999 from the Chairperson of the Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East addressed to the Commissioner-General, contained in the report of the Commissioner-General,²

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 13 and addendum (A/54/13 and Add.1).*

² *Ibid.*, p. ix.

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of its resolutions 48/40 E,³ 48/40 H⁴ and 48/40 J⁵ of 10 December 1993 and 49/35 C⁶ of 9 December 1994,

Recalling Articles 100, 104 and 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,⁷

Affirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,⁸ to the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem,

Aware of the fact that Palestine refugees have, for over five decades, lost their homes, lands and means of livelihood,

Also aware of the continuing needs of Palestine refugees throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory and in the other fields of operation, namely, in Lebanon, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic,

Further aware of the valuable work done by the refugee affairs officers of the Agency in providing protection to the Palestinian people, in particular Palestine refugees,

Deeply concerned about the continuing critical financial situation of the Agency and its effect on the continuity of provision of necessary Agency services to the Palestine refugees, including the emergency-related programmes,

Aware of the work of the new Peace Implementation Programme of the Agency,

Recalling the signing in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993 of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization,⁹ and the subsequent implementation agreements, including the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip signed in Washington, D.C., on 28 September 1995,¹⁰ as well as the signing of the Sharm el-Sheikh Memorandum on 4 September 1999,

³ A/49/440.

⁴ A/49/442.

⁵ A/49/443.

⁶ A/50/451.

⁷ Resolution 22 A (I).

⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

⁹ A/48/486-S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.

¹⁰ A/51/889-S/1997/357, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-second Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1997*, document S/1997/357.

Taking note of the agreement reached on 24 June 1994, embodied in an exchange of letters between the Agency and the Palestine Liberation Organization,¹¹

Aware of the establishment of a working relationship between the Advisory Commission of the Agency and the Palestine Liberation Organization in accordance with General Assembly decision 48/417 of 10 December 1993,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, as well as to all the staff of the Agency, for their tireless efforts and valuable work;

2. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Advisory Commission of the Agency, and requests it to continue its efforts and to keep the General Assembly informed of its activities, including the full implementation of decision 48/417;

3. *Welcomes* the completion of the transfer of the headquarters of the Agency to Gaza and the signing of the Headquarters Agreement between the Agency and the Palestinian Authority;

4. *Acknowledges* the support of the host Governments and the Palestine Liberation Organization for the Agency in the discharge of its duties;

5. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to accept the *de jure* applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,⁸ and to abide scrupulously by its provisions;

6. *Also calls upon* Israel to abide by Articles 100, 104 and 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations⁷ with regard to the safety of the personnel of the Agency, the protection of its institutions and the safeguarding of the security of the facilities of the Agency in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem;

7. *Calls once again upon* the Government of Israel to compensate the Agency for damages to its property and facilities resulting from actions by the Israeli side;

8. *Requests* the Commissioner-General to proceed with the issuance of identification cards for Palestine refugees and their descendants in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

9. *Notes* that the new context created by the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization⁹ and subsequent implementation agreements has had major consequences for the activities of the Agency, which is henceforth called upon, in close cooperation with the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority, the specialized agencies and the World Bank, to continue to contribute towards the development of economic and social stability in the occupied territory;

¹¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/49/13), annex I.*

10. *Notes also* that the functioning of the Agency remains essential in all fields of operation;
11. *Notes further* the significant success of the Peace Implementation Programme of the Agency;
12. *Expresses concern* about the remaining austerity measures due to the financial crisis, which have affected the quality and level of some of the services of the Agency;
13. *Reiterates its request* to the Commissioner-General to consider the possibility of modernizing the archives of the Agency;
14. *Urges* all States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to continue and to increase their contributions to the Agency so as to ease current financial constraints and to support the Agency in maintaining the provision of the most basic and effective assistance to the Palestine refugees.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*[on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee) (A/54/575)]*

54/74. Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, 36/146 C of 16 December 1981 and all its subsequent resolutions on the question,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General in pursuance of resolution 53/51 of 3 December 1998,¹

Taking note also of the report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine for the period from 1 September 1998 to 31 August 1999,²

Recalling that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights³ and the principles of international law uphold the principle that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his or her property,

Recalling in particular its resolution 394 (V) of 14 December 1950, in which it directed the Conciliation Commission, in consultation with the parties concerned, to prescribe measures for the protection of the rights, property and interests of the Palestine Arab refugees,

¹ A/54/345.

² A/54/338, annex.

³ Resolution 217 A (III).

Taking note of the completion of the programme of identification and evaluation of Arab property, as announced by the Conciliation Commission in its twenty-second progress report,⁴ and of the fact that the Land Office had a schedule of Arab owners and file of documents defining the location, area and other particulars of Arab property,

Recalling that, in the framework of the Middle East peace process, the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Government of Israel agreed, in the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993,⁵ to commence negotiations on permanent status issues, including the important issue of the refugees,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Palestine Arab refugees are entitled to their property and to the income derived therefrom, in conformity with the principles of justice and equity;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all appropriate steps, in consultation with the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, for the protection of Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel, expresses its appreciation for the work done to preserve and modernize the existing records of the Commission, and requests the Secretary-General to complete this task;

3. *Calls once more upon* Israel to render all facilities and assistance to the Secretary-General in the implementation of the present resolution;

4. *Calls upon* all the parties concerned to provide the Secretary-General with any pertinent information in their possession concerning Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel that would assist him in the implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Urges* the Palestinian and Israeli sides, as agreed between them, to deal with the important issue of Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues in the framework of the final status negotiations of the Middle East peace process;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Annexes, Annex No. 11, document A/5700.*

⁵ A/48/486-S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993, document S/26560.*



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*[on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee) (A/54/575)]*

54/75. University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds" for Palestine refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 36/146 G of 16 December 1981, 37/120 C of 16 December 1982, 38/83 K of 15 December 1983, 39/99 K of 14 December 1984, 40/165 D and K of 16 December 1985, 41/69 K of 3 December 1986, 42/69 K of 2 December 1987, 43/57 J of 6 December 1988, 44/47 J of 8 December 1989, 45/73 J of 11 December 1990, 46/46 J of 9 December 1991, 47/69 J of 14 December 1992, 48/40 I of 10 December 1993, 49/35 G of 9 December 1994, 50/28 G of 6 December 1995, 51/130 of 13 December 1996, 52/63 of 10 December 1997 and 53/52 of 3 December 1998,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,¹

Having also considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999,²

¹ A/54/385.

² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 13 and addendum (A/54/13 and Add.1).*

1. *Emphasizes* the need for strengthening the educational system in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 5 June 1967, including Jerusalem, and specifically the need for the establishment of the proposed university;
2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary measures for establishing the University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds", in accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/13 B of 3 November 1980, giving due consideration to the recommendations consistent with the provisions of that resolution;
3. *Calls once more upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cooperate in the implementation of the present resolution and to remove the hindrances that it has put in the way of establishing the University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds";
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*71st plenary meeting
6 December 1999*